

OT 1023 Introduction to Old Testament Exegesis
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Section 1: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:50 pm
Section 2: Wednesday/Friday 8:30-9:50 am
Gardencourt 206

Instructor

Steve Cook

Email: scook@lpts.edu

Phone: 615-463-7562 (cell)

Office Hours

Gardencourt 308

Tues. and Thurs. 3-5 PM

NOTE: I generally respond quickly to email, however, I am most responsive during “regular” working hours. You may call me if the need arises – especially if there is an emergency. I have given you my cell phone number because it is the best way to make sure that you reach me. I always have my cell on me, but I might not always be at my desk when you call. Also, you are welcome to drop by my office outside of posted “office hours.” If I am in, and I tend to spend a lot of time in the office, my door is open.

Class Assistants

Section 1: Erin Gill Email: erin.gill@my.lpts.edu

Section 2: Alex Becker Email: alex.becker@my.lpts.edu

There are two student assistants for this class. The assistants will help during class sessions with homework review. They will also schedule and maintain regular times outside of class for tutoring. You are encouraged to utilize these sessions – especially to work on items on which you need to improve. Tutoring sessions are not meant to replace or substitute for the time you should spend doing the homework yourself.

Course Description/Learning Outcomes

This course builds students’ knowledge and understanding of Hebrew grammar and translation skills. Additionally, it introduces students to major topics of exegesis including textual criticism.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Correctly vocalize the Hebrew text presented in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS).
2. Use a Hebrew lexicon (or dictionary) along with knowledge of Hebrew grammar to identify words and their grammatical characteristics.
3. Work with a Hebrew lexicon (or dictionary) to roughly translate the text presented in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS) (mainly narrative portions).
4. Bring to bear knowledge of exegetical method for translating the Hebrew Bible for a congregational audience.
5. Articulate a greater recognition of the role that readers (broadly considered) play in reading the Bible.

Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance,

http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; the Student Handbook, p. 19.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style. 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

While not a substitute, here is a useful hyperlink: [Turabian Quick Guide](#)

Attendance Policy

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

Course Requirements and Grading

- Class Attendance and Participation 10 %
- Weekly Quizzes 20 %
- Grammar/Translation Exam (March 8/9) 20 %
- Textual Criticism/Translation Project (April 12/13) 15 %
- Final Project (Date in May TBD) 35 %

Required Books

Dozeman, Thomas B., ed. *Methods for Exodus*. Methods in Biblical Interpretation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and Modern Versions*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic Press, 2001.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. 4th edition. N. Richland Hills, Texas: BIBAL Press, 2007.

Assigned Articles/Chapters (on Reserve, in CAMS, or hyperlinked)

Long, Thomas G. "Biblical Exegesis for Preaching." In *The Witness of Preaching*, 2nd edition, 69-98. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Lapsley, Jacqueline. "Am I Able to Say Just Anything? Learning Faithful Exegesis from Balaam." *Interpretation*. 60.1 (2006) 22-31.

Muilenburg, James. "Form Criticism and Beyond." *Journal of Biblical Literature*. 88.1 (1969): 1-8.

Patte, Daniel. "Introduction" and "Assuming Responsibility for Our Biblical Interpretations." In *Ethics of Biblical Interpretation: A Reevaluation*, 1-36. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. [Optional]

Hayes, John H. and Carl R. Holladay. "Textual Criticism." In *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*, 3rd ed., 34-52. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Schäfer, Rolf and Florian Voss. *Textual Research on the Bible: An Introduction to the Scholarly Editions of the German Bible Society*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2008. Link: http://www.academic-bible.com/fileadmin/user_upload/Download/ENG_210x210_4c_32S_Print300dpi.pdf